

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1896.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE UNITED PRESS, THE WESTERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

OLNEY ON CUBA.

The opinion of Secretary-of-State Olney, that the President has the right to ignore the Cameron joint resolution, recognizing the independence of Cuba, and that should he veto it, and should Congress pass it over his veto by a two-thirds vote, it would not have the force and effect of law is diametrically opposed to the popular view of the subject. This latter view, which is shared by many lawyers of ability, is, we take it, based on clause 3 of section 7 of the Constitution, and the amplification thereof in section 291 of the Revised Statutes; which authorities would certainly seem to put all joint resolutions in the same category with bills.

Mr. Olney, however, contends, in effect, that the question of recognizing the independence of a State involves an exception to this rule. The power, he says, to recognize the so-called Republic of Cuba as an independent State rests solely with the President.

Mr. Olney may be right. Indeed, it is fair to assume that he is right. He is a good constitutional lawyer, and would hardly have given an opinion publicly on so grave a matter unless he was certain that he was speaking by the card. Besides, it would appear unquestionable that he is sustained by precedent, seeing that the recognition heretofore by the country of the independence of any State has, it is claimed, been the act of the President alone.

Furthermore, it is earnestly to be hoped, for the business interests of the country, that Mr. Olney is standing on sure ground. As much as we differ with Mr. Cleveland regarding his course against some other questions, we would be glad to know that he has the power to prevent the Cameron resolution from becoming operative, for the present at least. But, whether he has such power or not, we are glad that Mr. Olney raised the question. The discussion of it will give the finger time in which to moderate their zeal, a consummation devoutly to be wished; and the very fact that there is a doubt about the matter, coupled with Mr. Cleveland's Cuban policy, as announced in his message, is calculated to prevent Spain from taking any step that could further incense the people of this country.

Not that we do not sympathize with the Cuban patriots, and not that we would not have the United States take prompt and summary action touching the Cuban issue, should the national honor and the integrity of the Monroe doctrine demand that we do so. But we ought to be sure we are right before we go ahead. It seems to be generally accepted that Mr. Cleveland's Cuban policy was inspired by the observations in Cuba of General Fitzhugh Lee, our Consul-General at Havana. It is to be supposed that both the Consul-General and the President studied the Cuban situation in all its lights, and that they did not reach their conclusions hastily. Any action on the part of Congress that would provoke Spain to declare war against this country, or cause Spain to assume an attitude that would compel us to declare war against her, ought to be capable of thorough justification. Nothing has occurred since the President's message was laid before Congress that would afford that justification.

CHRISTMAS AND HARD TIMES.

This is not the first Christmas to come in "hard times." There have been others. History and nature are but repeating themselves. Winter follows summer, age follows youth, hard times follow good ones—but the world moves on serenely, and in the far future old men and women who are now boys and girls will look back to this Christmas season as the sweetest and happiest in their lives. They will tell the youth of that far distant period that "there are no such Christmas now."

As beauty is said to be in the eye of the gazer, so the real Christmas is in the heart of the celebrant. The envious, snarling soul is not going to be happy, no matter how rich the presents that are laid before him; no matter how sumptuous the dinner upon his board. He not only wants all that he has, but all that

everybody else has. Not so the kindly and contented man. His regret is not that he has not received more presents, but that he has not been able to give more. And right there is where the hard times will pinch. In the nature of things—or rather in the unnaturally depressed condition of business—there are many who cannot this year bestow such presents as they have been in the habit of bestowing. But this ought not to make them altogether miserable. He who does his best does his full duty. Who can do more?

In the South during the war the best Christmas gifts that were ever seen in our land were given. They were poor, mean, shabby things in themselves, but they represented the beauty of self-sacrifice and the holiness of love. They were the offerings of starving families at home to the shivering, suffering soldiers in the trenches. They were such simple things as stockings, knitted by the light of pin-knot fires; hats made out of old clothing, home-made gloves, tobacco pouches, etc. Most of them were bedewed with tears of women—mothers, wives, sweethearts. But they were messengers of encouragement and testimonials of affection, such as no money could have bought. They were of poverty's fashioning, but were studded and spangled with the precious jewels of affection.

Ah, those were hard times, indeed. Yet Santa Claus did not omit his visits here, though his pack was light and his assortment lacked variety. He brought no French dolls; but in their stead "rag babies" of home make. No French candy had he, but such sweets as could be made out of sorghum. Of pretty toys there was a great dearth. Old garrets were ransacked and such things as could be found there were rehabilitated and served well enough. But the stress of poverty was most unmistakably seen in the efforts made to give the soldiers "a full meal" on Christmas-Day. For this purpose turkeys and hams were contributed, leaving many a family's board bare. And yet those were happy Christmases to many! There are gray-haired men and women who will assure you that there are no such Christmases now, and there are not—for them.

Oh, blessed be youth. No hard times come to it. The touch of a hand may give it riches, when the pocket is empty. The glance of an eye may make sunshine for it on a rainy day. It is the daisy period of life, and Christmas gives it special sparkle and finest fragrance.

REED'S FRIEND LAMB.

It seems to the Dispatch that the McKinley men in Virginia are overdoing the work of "sitting down" upon Chairman Lamb, of the State Republican Committee.

So far as the public is aware, Lamb's chief offence is that he was a partisan of Mr. Reed rather than Mr. McKinley prior to the St. Louis convention. For this he has been punished unmercifully. During the recent campaign he was shorn of nearly all power, and at the recent meeting of the State Committee fresh indignities were heaped upon him. Inasmuch as all these things must have been done with the sanction of Mr. Hanna if not with the sanction of Mr. McKinley we may take it for granted that Colonel Lamb will have no voice or share in the distribution of the Federal patronage in Virginia. This shows a good deal of long-headedness on the part of Mr. Hanna. Evidently he has no idea of allowing Colonel Lamb to build up a Republican party in Virginia at the expense of McKinley.

But, as we have said, the McKinleyites ought to make sure that they do not overdo their work and make a martyr of Colonel Lamb. The popularity of a new administration is always very great until its patronage is disposed of; after that the disappointed ones begin to revise their opinion of the President. That will doubtless occur in this instance, and that will be Colonel Lamb's opportunity. He is probably biding his time. It cannot be supposed that Mr. Reed is without resentment in the matter, or will fail to uphold Colonel Lamb. The fact is, that the policy of the administration in Virginia may be taken as illustrative of their purpose everywhere to down all Reed men, and keep them down, if possible.

THE OLD VIRGINIA FIDDLER.

What has become of the old Virginia fiddler, whose services used to be in incessant demand at this season of the year, and who was known and greeted by all the young people for miles around?

Of old, there could be no Christmas in the country without him. He was as indispensable as the children's stockings, the egg-nog-bowl, the roasted goat, the mince-pie, or the stuffed turkey. He was the important functionary at every dance, and called out the figures in an unchallengeable voice, which grew fiercer and fiercer as he warmed up to his work. Has our old friend disappeared? Is his fiddle cracked, and his bow unstrung? Has he been unable to withstand the invasion of his territory by the piano and the piano-agent? We fear so. We hear of him very seldom now; whereas, in the times gone, at Christmas his name was on every tongue, and his bow was a scepter wielded over many willing subjects. Happily for him that he found suitable collectors before his type was extinct. Dr. George W. Basby, that great humorist, and player upon the heart-strings of men, in numerous sketches, and the founder of this paper, in his delightful, realistic reminiscences, have both described and immortalized the old Virginia fiddler. And well they did; for he is becoming as rare as the buffalo upon the western prairies. But well he served his day and generation before he laid down "de fiddle and de bow."

RAN TUCKER.

Let us hope that the Hon. John Randolph Tucker, who is now very ill at Lexington, will soon rout his disease and be his own genial and lovable self again. Virginia could ill-afford to spare him. Where has she his equal as a constitutional lawyer? Where his equal as a raconteur? Where a more loyal son?

He has served as State Attorney-General and as congressman, and in other public positions, and now in the evenings of his life, is happily circumstanced as the head of the law school at Washington and Lee University. He has been doing good work there and likes it. May he be long spared to continue it, and to leave the impress of his genius and wit upon the youths who sit at his feet.

"Any old thing" won't do for a Christmas present. Time and attention are necessary to making proper choice, and nowhere are the fields of selection wider and more fertile than in Richmond, the advertising columns of the Dispatch duly testify.

It is only the Virginia Republican who has the heart to shear a Lamb in mid-winter.

WORTH LOOKING INTO.

Though the Dispatch is bent upon drawing the attention of our people to the importance of formulating plans for more systematic work during the year 1897, we are pleased to be able to say that our city has stood the test of hard times as well as the average city of this country.

Indeed, we might make this statement much stronger, but we prefer to err, if at all, upon the side of conservatism. Here and there there has been a community which, under special conditions, has prospered of late, but, as a rule, the conditions that have prevailed here have prevailed everywhere else.

The urban communities, in brief, have suffered in company with the agricultural communities. The general report from them is of manufacturers working short hours, numbers of workmen unemployed, very moderate railroad earnings, great depression in property values and many houses vacant for which no tenants can be found.

Such is the average condition of American cities. Where better conditions obtain they are due, in most instances, to transient causes. But all along the line preparations are being made for better times. Hope is springing in the human breast again. Every city and town is planning to improve its status during the coming year. Ours is the day of concentrated effort and combinations of capital, and cities are no more exempt from the vogue than individuals are.

It is to meet the hoped for incoming tide of prosperity and to compete with those who are organizing to extend their trade that the Dispatch would have our own business-men determine to work together to make Richmond successful during the year 1897. "What can we do?" Well we should think that we could do what other communities are doing, or are scheming to do. We can, first of all, put our heads together and see how we stand. We can encourage one another. We can make openings for new enterprises. We can watch our interests as they are affected by railroad companies' movements. There's plenty to do.

At this very time Richmond ought to be helping the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company to conclude arrangements with the city of Manchester to lower the Free bridge. The fact is, if we had been as wide awake as we should have been some years ago, Manchester would have become a part of Richmond, and then the pending question between the Chesapeake and Ohio Company and Manchester never could have arisen.

Manchester and Richmond ought to be one city. This has been our opinion for many years, and a union might have been effected when it was more practicable than it is now if our people had taken a broad view of the question. But, unhappily, what we are bound to characterize as narrow views prevailed. Now we have the city of Manchester in seeming antagonism to Richmond in a matter which involves the expenditure of some millions of dollars.

Is this not an opportunity for our people to show their public spirit? Might not our brothers of Manchester listen to arguments from us which would fall upon dull ears coming from the railroad company? Couldn't we all the company in this matter? Are we to stand still and see this scheme fail? Are we not interested? If Manchester isn't disposed to oblige the company it may be disposed to oblige Richmond. What think you?

And then there is the question of extending our corporate limits. It is one that "will not down," and though it may not come up in a serious form during 1897, it will be revived eventually. It is bound to be revived—unless Richmond is willing to see her business leave here to go into Henrico county to secure lower taxation, or into Manchester to be nearer the Southern Railroad tracks! If our present policy continues indefinitely we people of Richmond will be in the position of taxing ourselves to maintain a city which is largely made use of as a convenience by our urban and suburban neighbors.

This, we should think, would be a subject which might profitably engage the attention of our tax-payers.

We might say something here as to the desirability of our city's cutting down its municipal expenses until they are safely within its income, but this matter is now in good hands. The City Council is thoroughly aroused to the necessity of adopting a better financial system, and the Council is backed by the tax-payers. But before the reorganization of 1900 there should be an organization formed here that is able to employ counsel and experts to secure an assessment of our real estate upon the same basis that assessments are made in other cities of this State.

If, for instance, we assess at 56 per cent. of the true value and other cities assess at 66 per cent., we pay into the State Treasury more than our just proportion of State taxes. So far as city taxes are concerned, in proportion as the aggregate values are decreased the rate will have to be increased. So there will be no gain there, except that our people will understand much better than they now do, what it costs to run our city government.

Ah, friends, there is much work here to be done—work that can only be done when public sentiment is deeply aroused and when the spirit of co-operation is fully developed. We Richmonders pull very well, but we have not yet learned to pull altogether. Let's learn that lesson in 1897.

The Richmond Dispatch quotes with great solemnity, as justifying George Washington's use of "amongst," a line in which Shakespeare employs that truly horrible word. This is a very poor defence. In the first place, one character or another in Shakespeare's plays commits every possible etymological and grammatical crime; and, in the next, words and expressions appear in even the most majestic of his passages that are correct only in the sense that the great dramatist was above all ordinary rules of composition, and, therefore, whatever he found most expressive, was right. It would be absurd to call his "most unkindest" an error, either of judgment or of grammar; but that fact would not have excused a similar duplication of superlatives by George Washington or any one else.—New York Times.

All right; since the Times has ruled out Shakespeare as null and void, and of no account as an authority, we venture to quote two other authorities to support George Washington in the use of that "truly horrible word," amongst—to wit: "He sent his apostles forth like sheep AMONGST wolves"—Gosnell's "Life of Christ," chapter xxiv., page 49. "We hear Descartes laying it down AMONGST the golden rules for guiding his studies," etc.—"De Quincey's Historical and Critical Essays," etc.; Volume I., page 166.

The Century Dictionary, under the heading of "amongst," compares the use of the "at" here with its use in "amongst." The analogy is good and strong and among the authorities quoted as using amidst the Century gives Addison, Milton, and

Irving—glorious names, indeed, in English literature.

"The Standard Dictionary," "The Century Dictionary," and other dictionaries, also, give amongst a clean bill of health. Now, we would ask the Times, "with great solemnity," if these authorities are not entitled to some consideration, or, are they all to be set down as ignoramuses, like our deceased friends, William Shakespeare and George Washington?

The Cubans are doing all that they can to dissuade Americans from coming down there. Really, the Cubans are too busy fighting the Spaniards to pay the necessary attention to Americans, who are apt to fall sick within a few weeks of their arrival upon the island. What the insurgents ask for are rifles, ammunition, and medicine. Quinine, they particularly need, and several large contributions of this drug have already been made by dealers in it. If the would-be-volunteers would stay at home and would send the Cubans the amount of money that the aforesaid volunteers are willing to spend to get to Cuba, the patriots' cause would be better advanced. At any rate, the Cuban Junta have over and over again most emphatically denied that any of the so-called Cuban "recruiting officers" are what they represent themselves to be.

Christmas comes and Christmas goes—Stayeth with us never, But the Broad-Street bob-tail car Mule abideth ever.

Oh, will it be always thus, Spite of all endeavor? Can we not this antique Bond of union sever? Ask the winds of Oregon Hill, that blow so, ever! Ask the Ninth-Street-hill horse-drear—Echo answers, Never!

Christmas Chimes.

SONG OF THE CHIMNEY. The season comes, the season goes, But still the question's mooted, If those whom Santa's bounty greets Are generally suited.

The children flock at chimney-place, With horns with volume tooted, And by the echoes of the same We guess that they are suited.

But whether stockings brim or not, This truth is ever bruited, I make the way for Santa Claus And I am always suited.

The Christmas Stocking.

I am the Christmas Stocking, You've often sang of it, And not a tale of chimney nook, But I've the hang of it. The innovators of to-day, And people of that ilk, Imagine that I ought to be An article of silk.

But spite of modern fancies I often have a darn, And like the fame of Santa Claus—Am wholly made of yarn.

The Maiden's Choice.

"My favorite night of the year," she exclaimed, As her face in a halo of courage she framed, "Is the night before Christmas, a night that secures A peace that no other to mortal insures. For then"—and her gratitude seemed fervent—"According to legend, the mouse is quiet."

Answered Accordingly.

Lawyer (with the hypothetical man): Supposing that the defendant's ancestry, as far back as it could be traced, was, as testimony herein seems to certify, tainted with evidences of dementia, or, what some experts have denominated cerebral eccentricity, always bearing in mind the insidious progress of alienism and man's irresponsibility for inherent ills of the flesh, and associating the plaintiff's act with this theory as it has been illustrated to you, what would be your verdict as to this said plaintiff's culpability in the commission of the act with which he stands charged?

Witness: I think it is.

A Questionable Proceeding.

"It hardly seems to me to be the right thing," remarked Jester, as he saw his wife opening the stocking repository, preparatory to hanging the Christmas receptacles on the mantel shelf, "for you to persist in that custom every year." With a surprised look his wife turned from her occupation for a moment, and interrogatively replied: "What possible objection can there be to it, my dear?" "Why," returned her husband, "in view of the unvarying kindness of Santa Claus to the members of our household, it doesn't seem right that we should open the hose on him."

A Well-Founded Conclusion.

Surface: I assure you, Miss, that I don't believe all that I hear. Miss Candor: That is entirely in accord with what I have heard of you. Surface: How is that? Miss Candor: I have been told that you are in the habit of talking to yourself.

Surprising, Indeed.

Sonker: Bootleman tells me that I was drunk last night. Doesn't that statement surprise you? Pythias: It does, indeed. Sonker: Why shouldn't it? Pythias: Why, indeed! It's so unusual for Bootleman to tell the truth.

A Timely Hint.

Mr. Leightman: I am a great believer in the practice of early rising; are you an early riser, Miss Freshleigh? Miss Freshleigh (looking at the clock): That depends on the caprice of my guests.

Of course, it adds to the exhilaration of Christmas to have the stockings get full.

Young ladies are bad advisers; one is apt to be misled by them.

The victim of corns is very sensitive to the power of the press.

The generous tippler is a great believer in the horn of plenty.

It never reigns, but it paws—the wild-cat.

The watchmaker is a great time-server.

The Gopher Forth.

(Mabel Earle, in Harper's Bazar.) Now far along the darkened sward The winter snow is white, I will go forth to meet my Lord And welcome Him to-night. The solemn stars in Heaven wait; The swaying sea is dim. I will go forth beyond my gate And find my way to Him. In lighted fancies the choirs of praise Lift up their anthem sweet. I will go forth along the ways To find and clasp His feet. Across my hearth the night winds moan; My doors are opened wide. Into the night I pass alone To find my Christmastide.

HE IS DEPUTY CLERK.

MR. F. LAWTON CRUTCHFIELD RECEIVES THE APPOINTMENT.

IS A YOUNG SON OF JUSTICE JOHN.

Was for Two Years in the Hustings

Court Office Prior to the Death of Mr. Lawton—Language of Mr. Christian and Judge Witt.

Mr. Walter Christian, Clerk of the Hustings Court of the city of Richmond, yesterday appointed Mr. F. Lawton Crutchfield as his Deputy. Mr. Crutchfield has been connected with the Clerk's office, in a clerical capacity for about two years, and a great many persons thought that he should be given the place. Some six or seven years ago Mr. Christian promised to give the place to Mr. James J. Sutton, a well-known book-



MR. WALTER CHRISTIAN, (The New Hustings Court Clerk.)

keeper here, should he ever be in a position to do so. On Friday night, however, Mr. Sutton called upon Mr. Christian, and very honorably told the Clerk that he would release him from that obligation.

When the court convened yesterday morning Mr. Christian named his Deputy. In doing so he said: "Your Honor has seen fit to appoint me as Clerk of this court, in the place of our lamented friend, I trust that I fully appreciate the confidence you have reposed in me, and hope that by following his example I may be able to perform the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the court and the public. It now becomes my duty to nominate to the court my deputy. I had delayed making any nomination until now, for the reason that some six or eight years ago, before this court ever had but one deputy, I promised the appointment to a friend in the event of my ever being Clerk of this court. That promise I felt in honor bound to redeem, but he, of his own accord, has come forward and generously released me, and has left me free to act in the premises as I deem proper. This he did voluntarily, without any suggestion from me or any one else. I desire now to nominate to the court as my deputy a young man whom, I am sure, your Honor will approve as being capable and efficient; I nominate to the court Mr. F. Lawton Crutchfield."

In reply to what Mr. Christian had said, Judge Witt remarked that he felt sure that Mr. Crutchfield would make a very acceptable deputy. The Judge added that Mr. Crutchfield had shown his efficiency, and that his nomination gave entire satisfaction to the court, and he took great pleasure in approving the nomination.

Mr. Crutchfield was, accordingly, made Deputy-Clerk of the Hustings Court. Mr. Crutchfield, the late Deputy Clerk, is the son of Justice John I. Crutchfield. He was first appointed to the position



DEPUTY-CLERK F. L. CRUTCHFIELD, of Deputy by the late William P. Lawton, on the 21st of last September, thus giving to the office two deputies. When Mr. Lawton died, the late Deputy Clerk, it remained with him to determine as to the necessity of two deputies. At present there will be but one. Mr. Crutchfield is popular, and his promotion pleased the members of the bar of this city. He was appointed Assistant-Deputy-Clerk of the court a few months ago, on the day upon which he was 21 years of age. He has been a very popular and valued attaché of the office since his connection therewith.

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Men's Suits, \$2.50 and upwards.
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Children's Suits, \$1.25 and upwards.
Men's Overcoats, \$4 and upwards.
Children's Overcoats, \$1.75 and upwards.
A small lot of Men's Fancy Worsteds and Cassimere Frock Suits, in broken sizes, which sold from \$15 to \$28, your choice, commencing to-morrow, \$6.98.

Among our useful Xmas Presents we have Cardigan Jackets, Gloves, Neckwear, Hats, Suspenders, Collars and Cuffs, which we sell now at cost.

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